

Synopsis

The U.S. 1903 Hartford Postal Stationery

We were fortunate that in the 20 years we have been collecting the Hartford postal stationery almost all the important production pieces have come on the market. The only major piece missing is the approved pencil sketch for the 5¢ Lincoln envelope (Undersander #E109B).

Production Material

Each of the original die sections begins with a showing of pencil sketches submitted for approval. As they bear notations by Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden, each is certainly one of a kind. Seven of the eight types listed by Undersander are present.

To obtain one of the unapproved pencil sketches we had to purchase a large lot of postal stationery essays and proofs from other issues. We asked the auctioneer to forward a letter to the underbidder offering to sell all the items in the lot except the Hartford piece. Through this correspondence we were fortunate to make the acquaintance of Dan Undersander, who purchased the items. At that time, he was just assembling his catalogue, and we were able to contribute most of the Hartford listings to that work.

The die proofs on red sealing wax were believed to exist undamaged in only one or two copies by Drakos, but because several sets have come on the market, we believe six or more exist.

The proofs on watermarked paper, of the 2¢ original and 2¢ recut dies undoubtedly were produced in several copies, but the copies shown here are the only ones we know of.

Specimen Entires

Examples of all listed specimens are shown except for one type, believed to be a favor printing.

Issued Entires and Wrappers

The treatment of the issued entires and wrappers is somewhat unorthodox because no attempt is made to show all types in mint condition. There are 98 catalogue types, not counting colors, which would make a very boring exhibit, although not difficult to create. More interesting and more challenging is the approach we have chosen, attempting to show the types used. Some examples of the usages shown are: registered and special delivery wrappers, paquebot covers, and covers to British Guiana, Cape Colony (S.A.), Celebes, Dutch East Indies, Fiji, Morocco, Romania, Siam, Turkey and Uruguay.

Because we are showing envelopes by size, no cover or wrapper that has been reduced on any side is used in the exhibit, with the exception of some of the covers with illegally used Hartford cut squares.

References

- Clark, D.N., Clark, N.B. and Lawrence, K., *Early Uses of the 1903 Hartford Postal Stationery*, *Postal Stationery* 46 (2004), 90-92.
- Drakos, F.C., *The 2-Cent Recut Dies The Hartford Issue United States Stamped Envelopes*, Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Weston, Mass. (1977).
- Undersander, D., *Catalog of U.S. Stamped Envelope Essays and Proofs*, United Postal Stationery Society (2003).